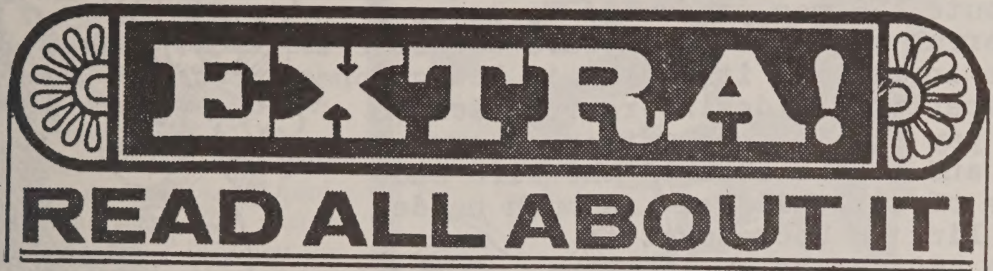


CRIMPVILLE COMMENTS

Vol. 2. Issue 9.

Week ending Sept. 20, 1970



Do you know what he's talking about?

At a ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Woonsocket By-pass on August 25, 1970, the Governor Of Rhode Island, Frank Licht, made the following statement:

"The Massachusetts Department of Public Works is improving Route 126 to the North of Woonsocket to provide adequate access to the City of Woonsocket to the interchange between Route 126 and Interstate Route 495 in North Bellingham and presently has under design, two and one quarter miles of Route 126 between the village of Bellingham and the Woonsocket City line. In addition, our State Department of Public Works is progressing with projects aimed at improving connections from Woonsocket, Southerly, to tie Route 295. A contract was recently approved to consult this firm to make a study for a connection between Route 146 and the Woonsocket Industrial Park. Because of this State's progress, I hope that in a few short years, Woonsocket will have connecting routes to all parts of the interstate highway system in Southern New England and I would like to say that the 30 Million Dollar Highway Bond Program Issue, which would produce 172 millions dollars of Highway construction---by this I mean that for our 30 million dollars, and then the Federal Government puts up 142 million dollars, that it will be able to have approved on November 3 by the people of this State, then I would make these connections the highest priority or among the highest priority in the State."

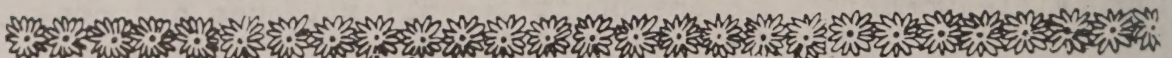
Crimpville Comments, in one of it's earlier issues had pre-
(continued next page)

dicted that Bellingham was to be the sacrificial goat for the commuters of Rhode Island right through our residential areas while Woonsocket builds a by-pass to avoid residential and business areas. The widening of Route 126 was presented to us as a wonderful medicine to improve our street while in reality it really is being done to benefit outside interests which we will pay for in devaluation of our property and at the risk of the life and limbs of our children. A much needed road linking Woonsocket to Route 495 can be built without disturbing our residential sections. We have mentioned before many times of a by-pass through a wooded area which would open this same large area to industrial use. But no, the State would rather pull a flim-flam by making Route 126 a State highway for "construction" purposes and then asking the town to take it back when completed. That way, we will pay for maintaining, plowing and sanding this highway for the use of out-of-town interests. Rhode Island is building connecting links for Woonsocket and they will be State roads. Let our State build a by-pass to Route 495 and let it be a State road. Let's face it, we are being took and if our Selectmen can't see through this scheme, or if they are incapable of doing the job they were voted in to do, then we had better take action ourselves and let the Selectmen bumble along as they have in the past.



The Selectmen were given a petition with 125 names on it protesting this project and also a request was given to the Selectmen for another public hearing on the road. The result of course is zero. It was ignored.

Now, who wrote the above article? I did, Ed. Sawyer and I'll be damned if I'm afraid to speak out. HOW ABOUT YOU?



"A JOY FOREVER"

Up and down the roads and byways of our land are old walls and foundations of homes and barns long since gone. It invariably gives me a start to find some long-gone place such as this 'way off in the woods somewhere. What is almost sure to be part of the scene? Daffodils, a couple of old long-gone-wild apple trees, and some rose bushes.

The roses, too, will have gone wild or be just single small pink blossoms, but they show that a woman was there to brighten the lives around her with some flowers.

I recall such a homestead away up in the mountains in Delaware County. Farming had been discontinued for so long that trees covered the place. In fact, that's how come I was there. I was hunting deer.

Well, here were the remnants of the old stone fences which showed where the pastures were. The garden was here, we figured. And here, near where the old stoned-up dug well used to be, were the rose bushes. There may have been lilac bushes in the yard too, but not now.

The farm must have been small and the soil was thin and rocky. The barn, built to house the hay and livestock, was far from huge. But here was once a business unit. Guess we tend to forget that long before the West was even opened up, some rocky, hilly farms were being abandoned here in the east.

It's interesting to note that the evidence of a woman's gentle, loving presence may outlast everything else at some of these abandoned home sites — even the stone fences and stone-filled concrete foundations.



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SAWYER'S ROCKLEDGE FARM

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"The Crimpville General Store"

Good Old Days

later spelled Rockwood) giving to his grandson John Corbet, later spelled Corbett) "whom I have educated and brought up his younger years, the home lott, being on the east side of the second bridge river (Charles River) where the Main Country road goes to Medfield." And for 94 years the Corbetts owned and lived in this house and when Dr. John Corbett died in 1794 at the age of 89, he

had outlived all of his family except one daughter, Bethiah, who had married Dr. Samuel Scammel, the second, of Milford in 1760 and she and her husband moved to the house in Bellingham. They and their heirs lived in the house for 97 years when in 1891, Hopestill Bethiah Scannell, unmarried daughter of John and Joanna Scannell died at the age of 74. So for 188 years, the Corbetts and the Scannells owned the house shown in the picture, the oldest house in Bellingham. (One of the Corbetts owned slaves and one of them is buried in the Warfield Cemetery in South Hopedale.

Her stone reads: Cleopatra Brown, A girl of color, Daughter of Sally Brown.

Died, Jan. 10, 1814. Aged 15 years and 10 months.) Since the last Scannell, the house was owned by George Hill, David Smith, Amy Smith and the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Partington who are doing a tremendous job in restoring the old house and are doing our town a favor in saving it. The house is located on Hartford Avenue on the right hand side going west and is just before the railroad tracks.

What is the oldest house in Bellingham? There exists a deed dated December 10, 1703 made out to John Rocket (later



In our next issue, we will reprint a newspaper account of an electric car victim who was cut in two. It is a rather vivid account and should be of interest to many of our readers.